

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6336

AN ACT

To direct the Joint Committee on the Library to accept a statue depicting Frederick Douglass from the District of Columbia and to provide for the permanent display of the statue in Emancipation Hall of the United States Capitol.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Frederick Douglass, born Frederick Augus-
4 tus Washington Bailey in Maryland in 1818, escaped
5 from slavery and became a leading writer, orator,
6 and publisher, and one of the Nation’s most influen-
7 tial advocates for abolitionism, women’s suffrage,
8 and the equality of all people.

9 (2) The contributions of Frederick Douglass
10 over many decades were crucial to the abolition of
11 slavery, the passage of the 13th, 14th, and 15th
12 Amendments to the Constitution of the United
13 States, the support for women’s suffrage, and the
14 advancement of African-Americans after the Civil
15 War.

16 (3) After living in New Bedford, Massachusetts,
17 Frederick Douglass resided for 25 years in Roch-
18 ester, New York, where he published and edited
19 “The North Star”, the leading African-American
20 newspaper in the United States, and other publica-
21 tions.

22 (4) Self-educated, Frederick Douglass wrote
23 several influential books, including his best-selling
24 first autobiography, “Narrative of the Life of Fred-
25 erick Douglass, an American Slave”, published in
26 1845.

1 (5) Frederick Douglass worked tirelessly for the
2 emancipation of African-American slaves, was a piv-
3 otal figure in Underground Railroad activities, and
4 was an inspiration to enslaved Americans who as-
5 pired to freedom.

6 (6) As a well-known speaker in great demand,
7 Frederick Douglass traveled widely, visiting coun-
8 tries such as England and Ireland, to spread the
9 message of emancipation and equal rights.

10 (7) Frederick Douglass was the only African-
11 American to attend the Seneca Falls Convention, a
12 women’s rights convention held in Seneca Falls, New
13 York in 1848.

14 (8) During the Civil War, Frederick Douglass
15 recruited African-Americans to volunteer as soldiers
16 for the Union Army, including 2 of his sons, who
17 served nobly in the Fifty-Fourth Massachusetts
18 Regiment.

19 (9) In 1872, Frederick Douglass moved to
20 Washington, DC, after a fire destroyed his home in
21 Rochester, New York.

22 (10) Frederick Douglass was appointed as a
23 United States Marshal in 1877 and was named Re-
24 corder of Deeds for the District of Columbia in
25 1881.

1 (11) Frederick Douglass became the first Afri-
 2 can-American to receive a vote for nomination as
 3 President of the United States at a major party con-
 4 vention for the 1888 Republican National Conven-
 5 tion.

6 (12) From 1889 to 1891, Frederick Douglass
 7 served as minister-resident and consul-general to the
 8 Republic of Haiti.

9 (13) Frederick Douglass was recognized around
 10 the world as one of the most important political ac-
 11 tivists in the history of the United States.

12 (14) Frederick Douglass died in 1895 in Wash-
 13 ington, DC and is buried in Rochester, New York.

14 (15) Frederick Douglass's achievements and in-
 15 fluence on the history of the United States merit
 16 recognition in the United States Capitol.

17 **SEC. 2. ACCEPTANCE OF STATUE OF FREDERICK DOUG-**
 18 **LASS FOR PLACEMENT IN EMANCIPATION**
 19 **HALL.**

20 (a) ACCEPTANCE.—Not later than 2 years after the
 21 date of the enactment of this Act, the Joint Committee
 22 on the Library shall accept from the District of Columbia
 23 the donation of a statue depicting Frederick Douglass,
 24 subject to the terms and conditions that the Joint Com-
 25 mittee considers appropriate.

1 (b) PLACEMENT.—The Joint Committee shall place
2 the statue accepted under subsection (a) in a suitable per-
3 manent location in Emancipation Hall of the United
4 States Capitol.

Passed the House of Representatives September 10,
2012.

Attest:

Clerk.

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